39. CRITICAL NOTES ON THE ORCHID *PHALAENOPSIS CORNUCERVI* (BREDA)

(With one text-figure)

The occurrence of the species *Phalaenopsis cornucervi* (Breda) Bl. & Reichb. f. in Andaman Islands was reported by Lakshminarasimhan and Ray (1991). A critical examination of the specimen quoted by the authors (P. Lakshminarasimhan & L.N. Ray, 15199-PBL) with relevant literature and the specimens authenticated by Dr. G. Seidenfaden reveals that the plant attributed to that report is actually *Kingidium deliciosum* (Reichb. f.) Sweet, a close relative of the genus *Phalaenopsis* Blume. Recently Ray *et al.* (1996) reported the occurrence of *Kingidium deliciosum* (Reichb.f.) Sweet in Andaman islands based on a fresh collection Sreekumar et Ray, 16473-PBL) from Richie's Archipelago. This plant could be easily distinguished from *Phalaenopsis cornucervi* by the presence of a sac on the lip and 4 pollinia, while the latter possesses only 2 pollinia and also has a flattened rachis of inflorescence. Hence, the real occurrence of *P. cornucervi* in Andaman is doubtful, although Kurz (1876) reports it from

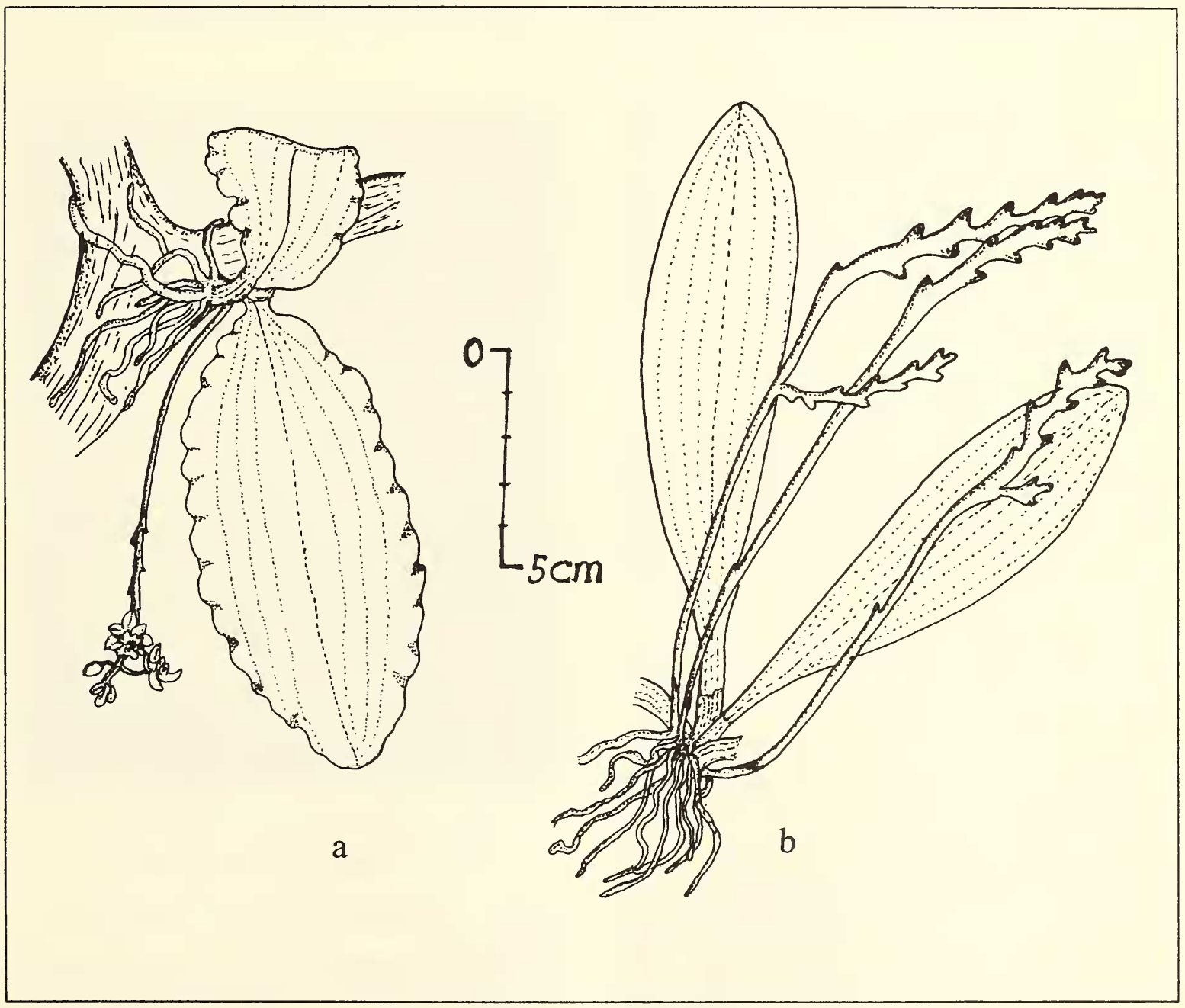

Fig. 1. a. *Kingidium deliciosum* (Reichb. f.) Sweet; b. *Phalaenopsis cormucervi* (Breda) Bl. & Reichb. f.

Nicobar Islands, for which no specimens are available in Port Blair. A comparative habit sketch is provided here to distinguish both these taxa.

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40. DOUBLE FRUITING IN PINEAPPLE — A RARE PHENOMENON

(With one text-figure)

The pineapple *Ananas comosus* (L.) Merr. belonging to family Bromeliaceae is one of the most important commercial fruits of the world. It is believed to have originated in Brazil, from where it spread to other tropical parts of the world. The fruit, having a characteristic pleasant flavour, is a good source of vitamin A and B and is fairly rich in vitamin C and minerals like calcium, magnesium and iron.

During the vegetative phase of the pineapple, the stem produces compacted internodes and leaves. Under natural conditions, flowering is irregular and is marked by an increase in diameter of the meristem, one year or more after planting, which then produces a series of expanded floral organs and longer internodes. After this, the diameter again decreases until purely vegetative leaves are produced which, with the short starchy stem, forms the top of the fruit or inflorescence. Under natural conditions, the pineapple plant produces single multiple fruit with one or more crowns. After a particular stage of fruit development the growth of the crown ceases and remains dormant unless it is detached for propagation and other purposes. During my visit to a pineapple plantation at the Central Agricultural Research

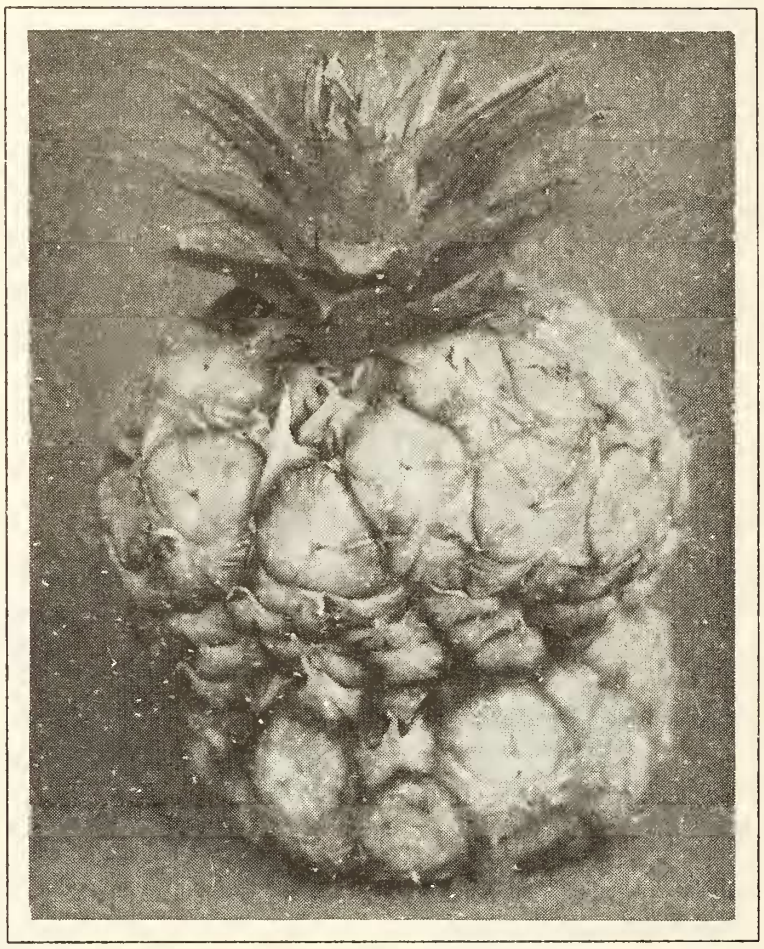

Fig. 1. Double fruiting in pineapple.

Institute, Research Complex, I noticed that in one plant of pineapple var. Kew, two months after emergence of inflorescence and fruit formation, one more inflorescence and fruit emerged/